

S.A.L.T. MISSION STATEMENT

S.A.L.T.'s primary goal is to understand, practice and share all life skills and arts of the ancient world.

This is accomplished by regular Skills Meetings and informing the public through various Events.



www.saltskills.com

Tom Wax, Vice President

Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

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Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 14, Issue 12

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



Charlie Tadano, President

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

at SEDAV VA:AKI MUSEUM

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS & DRUMMING CIRCLE meet at 9 am

S.A.L.T. SKILL # 24 Decoration

Carve a wooden ornament with Gary Alves
10 am - 2 pm

ANNUAL S.A.L.T. HOLIDAY PARTY FOLLOWS THE SKILLS MEETING AT SVM at 1:00 pm

Please call Tamara at 602-920-8228 to find out what to bring to add to the delicious CHICKEN CURRY DINNER!

Also, bring a primitive-related, homemade, if possible, wrapped gift for the White Mammoth Gift Exchange!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

December 17th – 20th S.A.L.T. CAMP on the old Winter Count Abril property in Maricopa

Saturday, January 20th SKILLS MEETING at SVM
S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSIP MEETING
S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3 Blade, Cordage & Fire & Flintknapping

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR S.A.L.T. SHIRTS
TO ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

All Members make sure Tamara has your name on the membership list for free entry into SVM!

"Unless there is CONTEXT, it's all arts and crafts." Steve Watts

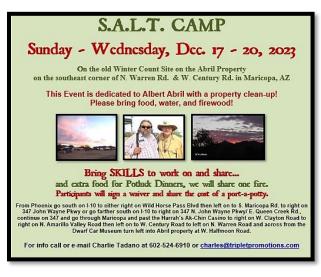


in English it is "Central Platform Mound."



S'EDAV VA'AKI Museum (Pueblo Grande Museum) is an archaeological site once inhabited by the Hohokam culture, just east of downtown Phoenix, next to Sky Harbor International Airport. It's a National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride accessible by the Sky Train and the Light Rail. Part of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department since 1929, it's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.

4619 E. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (602) 495-0901



INDIAN MARKET S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM SAT/SUN, DECEMBER 9th & 10th



S'edav Va'aki (Pueblo Grande) Indian Market is coming up soon! December 9th and 10th from 9am-4pm. Food, Native Dancing, Native Music, Art Vendors and much more! Over 100 Native American artists and crafts persons from many different tribes are represented. The Ki;Hiim (demonstration area) will include Piki bread, hoop dancing, jewelry beading, petroglyph making, native foods tasting and

gourd art by Arturo. \$5 Indian Market admission includes museum admission.



Wuertz Annual Gourd Festival is coming February 2-4, 2024! Food, Musical performances throughout the day and numerous gourd art vendors. Gourd art exhibit and gourd art classes. Gourd entries from novice to Grand Masters are on display. **Arturo teaches gourd art classes and also displays as a Grand Master**. Held in Casa Grande AZ at the Pinal County Fairgrounds and Event Center. \$13 admission. Come out for a day filled with fun and of course gourds!







WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

FEBRUARY 18-24, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENED NOVEMBER 1st AND CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 4th!

Winter Count, (started 1995), is part of a family of gatherings that strive to reconnect people with old ways of making fire, tanning hides, forming metal, weaving baskets, hunting, gathering and much more. We teach ancestral skills that were essential to the survival and well-being of all cultures, no matter what continent your ancestors came from. Through the understanding and mastery of these skills, people find that they can connect not only to a simpler way of living life but also to the roots of their heritage and to a pathway to interact more deeply with the natural world.

We provide a camp with some of the best instructors in their fields, teaching what they have learned through experience, experimentation and through source materials. Some of the instructors have spent many years perfecting their crafts. Some have managed archeological sites while others have lived deeply among the wild places, hunting, raising their own food and making their own clothing and tools from the most basic elements. We are a diverse group of people from many experiences, opinions, and family backgrounds, who come together to share what it is that makes us excited about life.

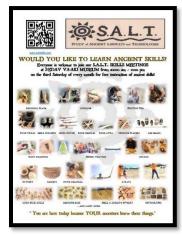
Winter Count is a drug, alcohol, and firearm free event.

Winter Count 505-570-9484 369 Montezuma Avenue, #326, Santa Fe, NM 87501

> WinterCountCamp@gmail.com www.WinterCountCamp.com



LOOK FOR OUR S.A.L.T. POSTER IN THE MUSEUM LOBBY!







DON'T MISS THE DECEMBER 2023 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING Saturday, December 16th

10 am - 2 pm

(Bring a snack for the Potluck Brunch!)

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am

S.A.L.T. SKILL # 24 DECORATION

Make a carved wooden ornament with Gary Alves

Make a carved wooderr ornament with Sary 711ves				
SKILL	Apprentice	Apprentice	Apprentice	
	Level I	Level II	Level III	
	Make a	Research 6	Display 3	
24. Decoration -	personal	different kinds of	different items	
Pigments, etc.	S.A.L.T. Bead	decoration such	that were	
-		as pigments,	decorated by	
		etc.	you	





Gary Hopewell Culture Bird Carving

At a recent S.A.L.T. meeting Peter Huegel spoke about effigies and later added a short article about this bird carving. It was carved in bone and covered in copper with a freshwater pearl eye. It came from an excavation of a Hopewell Mound and was part of the artifacts collected for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. It was estimated to have been made between 100 and 400 A.D.

We will be carving the bird that Peter wrote about after his class on effigies. I ordered and received the cultured freshwater pearl eyes and have some cutouts and pin backs to put the kits together. I was going to try copper leaf but decided to use copper paint. Please ask participants to bring their Hoko knife, or a modern knife, a rasp or file might be useful also. I will have sandpaper of different grits. If anyone has wood carving tools, they should bring them. It is also possible that participants could paint some or the feather details in rather than carving them.

ANNUAL S.A.L.T. HOLIDAY PARTY FOLLOWS THE SKILLS MEETING at 1:00 pm

Please call Tamara at 602-920-8228 to find out what to bring to add to the delicious CHICKEN CURRY DINNER!





Also, bring a primitive-related, homemade, if possible, wrapped gift for the White Mammoth Gift Exchange!

LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discoidal Blade	Make flakes from three different rocks and refine the tools	Demonstrate a use or project with the tool
2. Cordage	Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage	Process three different fibers and make cordage	Demonstrate a use or project with the cordage
3. Friction Fire	Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting	Forage for materials, construct hand drill or bow drill and make fire	Make a complete Fire Kit to use and display

SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

Make a flake and discoidal blade.

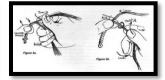


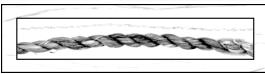


SKILL #2 CORDAGE: Level I

Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage.







SKILL #3 FRICTION FIRE: Level IDemonstrate one method of primitive fire starting.







(Beads will be given out to new members when Level I of all three of the above Membership Requirement Skills are completed and dues are paid.)

Remember to bring your own primitive tools and materials to the Monthly Skill Meetings, if you have them. Materials for the Membership Requirement Skills are provided at each meeting for guests and new members.

Also, you are responsible to sign in at meetings and events to be included in the newsletters, etc. and note on the sign-in sheet each level of each skill you complete to be awarded your beads. You need to make a Personal Bead to receive the leather thong for your Skill Beads. Thanks!

NOVEMBER 2023 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 18, 2023

Board Members in attendance: Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Tom Wax, Laura Robins, Bob Sizemore, Ron & Donna Moses, Jennifer Ahumada, Peter Huegel, and Gary Alves

Members in attendance: Carlos Acuna, Bill Waner, Diane Wax, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Carol Schroeter, Bingham Hortin, Linda Jolle, Susan Jeffay,

Guests: Amy, Marc & Thaddeus Espineria, Carol Bankert and Cheryl Alvord

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS MEET BEFORE OUR SKILLS CLASS at 9:00 am

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level
5. Flint Knapping	Demonstrate Core Reduction by Percussion	Use Percussion to produce Bi face Preform	Make primitive tools such as Southwestern Points





S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
25. Musical Instruments / Games	Take a class and make an instrument or game	Make and learn how to play 1 instrument and 1 game on your own	Demonstrate and display 3 instruments and 3 games





S.A.L.T. SKILLS DISPLAYS & DEMOS for

PORTAL FEST









S.A.L.T. put on demonstrations and displays of ancient skills for the Portal Fest Event at S'edav Va' Aki Museum. There is a lot of talent here!





















I spent the day a S'edav Va'aki Museum showing off various items our S.A.L.T. team has demonstrated how to make over the years. During the day I got to watch my first To'ka game.

For as long as anyone can remember, Tohono O'odham women have gotten together outdoors smacking an "ola" made from two oblong pieces of mesquite wood tied together with the "usaga," a curved stick made of flame-hardened mesquite. You cannot find these items in a store. They are handmade out of mesquite, just like they have been for generations.

According to tribal legend, the game of tóka was given to the Tohono O'odham women by the deity Elder Brother, known to the O'odham as l'itoi. I'itoi gave the game to the women shortly after creating all the various tribes around the world.

The game is for women ONLY. An O'odham man told me the men would consider it disrespectful to the women for a man to play the game. Maybe something to think about in today's society.

There are no out of bounds limits to the field and no net by the "goal line." Even when the ola goes over that goal line, the puck is still in play until it is picked up to be considered a point. Play then is continuous, with the team earning the best out of seven points declared the winner. The game is played with no helmets, no knee pads or other protection, and with no breaks.

Many years ago, some villages played not only for honor, but for a degree of survival. Prizes of winter supplies often were awarded to winning tribes in high-stakes games played in the late fall.

There are actually "usaga" - toka sticks - on display in museums.





The day at S'edav Va'aki Museum's Portal Fest would not be complete without a O'odham Waila band. As one person said to me, "It sounds a lot like a polka band." Historically there is a good reason for that. A friend of mine, who recently died, was an incredible Native American pottery maker also played the "squeeze box" in a Waila band. I could not help but think of him while this band played.







During the day at the museum today, right beside the SALT display tables, there was a performance by the Keli Akimel traditional basket dancers & singers from the Gila River Indian Community. The men play music with rattles and sing and the women perform a ceremonial dance with baskets. The song is about a wind so hard it shook the ground.

Peter Huegel



Dancing!







DELICIOUS POTLUCK BRUNCH!















THE BOARD MEETING







S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT / INFO GALLERY

CAUGHT KNAPPING with Bill Warner









The first "roaster load" of chert/chalcedony was cool enough to sample today, and "success." No pot-lidding after the slow heat-up, and terminal soak of 8 hrs. at 495-505F depending upon position in the roaster (measured with laser thermometer). All the few types I tested were much easier to knap, and some turned glassy. Though I was a bit heavy handed and busted a couple, here are a couple preforms and one point to show the heat treat results.





The near lack of freeze-cracking in chert from this deposit, and moderately common tabular material (including large tabs of 1-2') makes my knapping alter egos (Steppy McAlmondmaker and Rex Goodrox) very happy! That dark mossy stuff is pretty to boot!

"Knowledge is not complete until it is passed on." Steve Watts

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS **OUT AND ABOUT**

S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM RENAMING **CELEBRATION & EXHIBIT OPENING 11/6/23**

The S.A.L.T. group received a special invitation to the renaming ceremony at Pueblo Grande Museum now officially known as S'eday Va'aki Museum. Our group donates over 100 volunteer hours every month to the museum. Inviting us to this special event was a great way to recognize our contributions to the museum.





The Mayor of Phoenix was there as well as City Council members, and the Presidents of some of the area Native American tribes. The event was highlighted by the "unveiling" of a huge wall mural that was painted by Thomas "Breeze" Marcus a local Native-American artist who won the competition to have his work chosen.





The mural is HUGE! It is also filled with symbolism in many aspects of the art in the mural. Breeze explained that in the spirit of the ancestors the two artists he beat volunteered to help him paint the mural. By the way, much of the mural detail was painted free hand with spray paint cans!



One part of the mural that is absolutely mind blowing for me is the depiction of an ancient style shell bracelet. It is a 4 1/2 feet across on the mural! The 3D effect Breeze put into the image is unbelievable.





A "brunch" was provided that was made up of various appetizers created using native plants and various recipes.

The food was AWESOME! Tepary bean humus! Masa fruit Sonoran tart! wheat and mesquite cake! Blue corn chips with Hanam Salsa! Bite-size



"Wamich" Fry Bread made on the spot topped with Red Chili beef! Prickly Pear Cactus fruit juice! What's not to love.





Ron, Donna, Charlie, Laura, and Arturo Carlos, Jacob Butler, & Arturo



After all the official stuff, I got to speak for a while with Breeze. He started out mural painting - not legally - various building walls in parts of Phoenix. Then I admired his desert-toad-shell necklace. I asked him if he made it, but he said no his friend Jacob Butler made it. That started a whole conversation about the shell

necklace I was wearing because Jacob Butler taught me how to make shell jewelry using the ancient Hohokam acid-etching techniques.

All-in-all, a great day despite the 95-degree temps!

Peter Huegel



Look who's in the new Museum Exhibit Display!





May 27th - June 1st, 2024





Email Mullein HERE with any further questions

Between the Rivers Gathering is a week-long educational workshop for learning skills that originated in the stone-age all the way up to modern homesteading. We are an annual event located in Washington State about an hour north of Spokane. We will have a multitude of instructors offering a broad-range of classes all week long. Included will be wilderness survival skills of all kind, basic and homespun living, preparedness and skills of a practical and archeological nature.

We offer hands-on classes in ancestral living and survival, and we also focus on the skills of self-sufficiency and sustainable living to minimize our impact on this planet we all share. Come join our community and experience for yourself what an ancestral skills gathering is all about!

Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency Sponsored by Bridges to the Past 501(c)(3) Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

> Other <u>Skills Gatherings</u> BtR T-Shirt

Burning questions that can't wait? Contact us: patrickf@bridgestothepast.org

Betweentheriversgathering.com

BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!



Kandis Larson is making Between the Rivers Gathering Logo Hats and making them available to you! Each hat has a leather patch branded with our BTR logo that we have all grown to love, no two are alike, and have a primitive touch to them.

kandiscreated@gmail.com

509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created (Instagram)



Visit the Primitive Lifeways Store!

The Primitive Lifeways store is up and running. This month we are featuring new merchandise including beautifully crafted prehistoric replica pottery and jewelry. We are still selling stickers for less than a cup of coffee at Starbucks. By purchasing our new merchandise, you are helping us educate the public on archaeological preservation and the sharing of free information.

Click Here to visit our store.

Jeff Martir

<u>Jeff@primitivelifeways.com</u>



36TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 2024 Registration opens in February 2024

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held the 3rd week of September in ID, is the premier Backtracks event. Rabbitstick is the oldest of all of the modern primitive skills events and has been the model for most of the events currently running worldwide. Each year we host nearly 150 instructional and support staff who provide a camp with hands-on classes that run 9am-5pm for 5 days for about 400 registered participants. This is an unparalleled opportunity to learn skills and get to know teachers that you can trust. Visit our new website -rabbitstick.com - for complete event and registration details.

Backtracks has assembled one of the largest and most complete rosters of primitive skills teachers and practitioners available anywhere. Backtracks is your source for the best instructional staff you'll find at any event. Join us next year!

www.rabbitstick.com

Register On-Line Today Share a Ride Bulletin Board Meet Our Staff

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | <u>backtracks905@gmail.com</u> <u>societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com</u>





Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at primitive.org. Order back issues, download a complete index of topics and titles, or view the entire first issue and newsletters for free. Don't miss out on this amazing collection of information. It's up and running and ready to take your orders now.

https://www.facebook.com/Backtracks-Keeping-Traditions-Alive-213565755397099/?fref=nF



PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS Prescott, Arizona

Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!

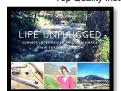
Hello friends! It's Kiowa Sage! I started a local meetup group to teach courses on primitive living skills, nature awareness and outdoor survival skills - all of which I've been training in for many years. All classes ranging from two hour workshops, day long classes and multiple day immersion courses. Skills and knowledge bases such as making fire with sticks, edible and medicinal plants, animal trapping and tracking, fiber arts and weaving, basic outdoor survival skills and how to do more with less in the outdoors. Right now I only have a couple classes listed until I acquire more traffic. Check out some of the listings that are available! www.meetup.com

Watch for new listings of classes that are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage

Earth Knack Courses, Classes, and Programs

Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990!



Robin Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth Knack School

Author: How To Play In The Woods (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

Earth Knack: Stone Age Skills for the 21st Century (Peregrine Books - Gibbs Smith 1996)

P.O.#508 Crestone Colorado 81131 719 256 4909 earthknackschool@gmail.com http://www.earthknack.com/



7448 S. J-B Ranch Rd. Roosevelt, AZ 85545

www.reevismountain.org

Dear RMS family & friends, ~ Live What You Love ~

All classes held at Reevis Mountain School include hearty meals fresh from the homestead, class supplies, hot showers, and campsite. Camping is free, or stay in a yurpee (\$10 per night per person), single cabin (\$25 per night, sleeps 1), or double cabin (\$50 per night, sleeps 1-2+), availability permitting. We provide complimentary shuttle service from Roosevelt, AZ, or caravan in your own 4X4. Shuttle pickup is at 4 p.m., first day of class.

Please see our website to enroll and to get more information

Sign up online! www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online! www.reevismountain.org/country-store

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



NEED YOUR HELP!

Jax's Project has been growing by leaps and bounds! He has had the opportunity to touch the lives of 185 Veterans who are transitioning from homeless to healing. If you would like to help, put bags together, supply items, or donate money for supplies, you can partner with Jax in honoring these Veterans.

Please call Tamara if you can help at 602-920-8228. The website is: www.americanveteransranch.org





ATTENTION

S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!

Please send in pictures and articles for this newsletter! Send in information on projects you are working on, information you have found on primitive skills, pictures from trips to archaeological sites, etc.

Send it to saltskills@gmail.com





STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS

ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES!

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

SINGLE \$12.00 & FAMILY \$24.00

(New memberships are pro-rated throughout the year)

Please mail them to S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

TAMARA TADANO

12840 N. 45th Drive Glendale, AZ 85304

Please make the check out to Tamara Tadano

S.A.L.T. MEMBERSHIP ITEMS

The Tan "Fishing Shirt" Style S.A.L.T. Membership Shirts are available by pre-order. Please contact Charlie Tadano to order your Shirt at 602-524-6910

NEW BLACK S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS, LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS, HOODIES





and S.A.L.T. PATCHES

are available!

(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00 each (Memberships receive one free)

S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.saltskills.com

e-mail address: saltskills@gmail.com

For MEMBERSHIP information call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail <u>saltskills@gmail.com</u>

For EVENTS and BEAD information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or saltdonna1@gmail.com

For S.A.L.T. e-Newsletter or Website info contact Laura Robins, Editor at 623-533-0847 or e-mail saltskills@gmail.com